

# Additional OEA Member Lobby Day

## Tuesday, June 23, 2009

### 9:00 a.m.

## OEA Headquarters Media Center

As a conference committee meets to finalize House Bill 1, the state budget bill, key school funding and education reforms hang in the balance. OEA Member Lobby Day provides an opportunity for OEA members to meet with state legislators to discuss key educational issues. It is very important that OEA members make their voices heard at this critical time. Together, we can send a strong message to leaders in Columbus to fix school funding and transform public education for the jobs of the future!

Please join your OEA colleagues at the OEA Headquarters' Media Center, 225 E. Broad Street in Columbus, Ohio at 9 a.m. for an hour-long briefing. We strongly encourage you to schedule your meetings with your legislators prior to lobby day. The legislative information can be found at:

<http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/>

If you need further information or would like to attend Member Lobby Day, please contact Jada Wilson at [wilsonja@ohea.org](mailto:wilsonja@ohea.org) or 1-800-282-1500 or register online at:

[http://ga1.org/ohea/events/lobbydayjune232009\\_1657002/details.tcl](http://ga1.org/ohea/events/lobbydayjune232009_1657002/details.tcl).

### **Here is some additional information to help you understand what the Senate has done to House Bill 1.**

The OEA lobbyists are still examining the details of the Senate proposal, but it is clearly inadequate. It represents a failure of leadership.

There is no vision for the future of Ohio, and the analysis cynically claims the bill is child-centered and fiscally responsible. The Senate is claiming its budget provides more money for education than the House and Governor Strickland. But our preliminary analysis points to the conclusion that this is mostly accounting sleight of hand. The Senate has merely inflated overall education funding by including more funding for some charter schools, and counting "pass-through funding" from the state to the resident school district that goes to charters, not the school districts struggling to make ends meet.

The Senate version of the state budget is a woeful disappointment in many ways:

- It throws away years of work on school funding and transforming public education.
- It fails to make school funding fair, adequate or constitutional, despite four Ohio Supreme Court rulings.
- And it is a one-time fix, throwing one-time money at a broken school funding system.
- Nothing in the plan addresses Ohio's new economic realities.

For these reasons, the Senate budget represents a colossal failure of leadership and vision.

- Ultimately, this bill is blind to the future of education and ignores the value of our schools and universities in strengthening the Ohio economy. Clearly, the Senate has no plan to harness education in order to break Ohio's recurring cycle of layoffs, foreclosures and business shutdowns.
- Ohio deserves better. The Senate leaders must put aside politics and support public education. We need leadership and ideas, not business as usual.
- The Ohio Education Association represents 130,000 teachers, faculty members and support professionals in Ohio's public schools, colleges and universities.

Right now we have pending an Action Alert for ACEs, urging them to contact their state senators and reject this failure of leadership and vision. Please participate by going to <http://ga1.org/ohea/home.html> on the OEA web site. If you're signed up as an Activist for Children and Education, that link will take you right to the heart of the action.

Also, we will soon have up a new Legislative Watch discussing the Senate budget bill at <http://www.ohea.org/GD/Templates/Pages/OEA/OEADetail.aspx?Page=2&TopicID=53&TopicRelationID=54>.

**The briefing will provide you with much more information as well as talking points for your visit with your Senator.**